

## What is the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program?

The Oral Rabies Vaccination Program is for the immunization of raccoons in the wild. The purpose of the program is to create a barrier to prevent raccoon rabies from spreading further west.

### Who is conducting the ORV Program?

The ORV Program is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Virginia Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other organizations.

### How is a raccoon vaccinated?

A raccoon is vaccinated by eating a bait containing the vaccine. Baits are primarily dropped by plane in areas where raccoons will find them.

### Where will the baits be dropped?

The baits will be dropped in Buchanan County, Scott County, in portions of Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Lee Counties and Norton City.

### When will the baits be dropped?

The bait drop will take place during a few days in August or September of 2002. The exact dates will be publicized.

### How can I help with the ORV Program?

You can help by knowing what the baits look like and encouraging children to leave them alone. Pet owners can help by keeping all dogs and cats inside or on a leash so the baits can be eaten by raccoons.

## Rabies: How to Protect Yourself and Your Family

- Do not feed, touch, or adopt wild animals, and be cautious of stray dogs and cats. Rabid animals do not always appear vicious!
- Teach children to leave wildlife alone. Be sure your child knows to tell you if an animal bites or scratches them.
- Have your dogs, cats, and ferrets vaccinated against rabies. Keep the vaccinations up to date.
- Tightly close garbage cans. Open trash will attract wild or stray animals to your home or yard.
- Do not leave pet food outside because this may attract wild or stray animals to your home or yard.
- Call your doctor for advice if an animal bites you. Report the incident to your local health department.

**If you have any questions about the Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccination Program, or if you have come into contact with the vaccine, please contact the USDA or your local health department**

The Virginia Department of Health would like to thank the West Virginia and Ohio Departments of Health for providing assistance with public education materials.



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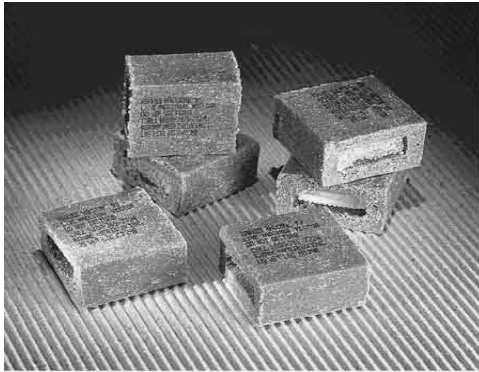
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## Virginia ORAL RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM



## What is the Oral Rabies Vaccine Bait?

The bait is a square block made of fish meal and fish oil. Raccoons like the smell and taste of the bait. The vaccine is inside a plastic packet in the middle of the block.



Bait containing oral rabies vaccine  
(dimensions 1 1/4" X 1 1/4" X 3/4")

### Is the vaccine harmful?

The vaccine is not harmful to wild animals or pets. Although the exposure risk to humans is very slight, the following information is important:

- Be aware of what the bait looks like.
- Encourage children to leave baits alone.
- Keep dogs and cats inside or on leashes at least a week after your area is baited.
- Do not attempt to take a bait away from your pet; you may be bitten.
- If you have contact with the liquid vaccine inside the bait (a red fluid), thoroughly wash the exposed skin with soap and water and call your local health department.

## TAKE THE BITE OUT OF RABIES

### What if I find a bait near my home?

Leave it alone, or if it is intact and out in the open, toss it deeper into woods or brush. Wear gloves and wash your hands after picking up a bait.

### What if a person has contact with the bait?

People with certain medical conditions, such as an immunodeficiency problem, may be prone to infection from vaccinia virus if the vaccine (red liquid) gets into an open wound. Use soap and water to wash any skin area exposed to the vaccine to prevent infection. A person exposed to the vaccine should contact the local health department.

### If a pet eats the vaccine, will they get rabies?

No. It is not possible to get rabies from the vaccine. The vaccine does not contain the rabies virus, only a single gene from that virus. The bait is not harmful to dogs or cats. Do not try to take the bait from an animal.

### Can the vaccine be used to vaccinate my pet against rabies?

No. By Virginia law rabies vaccination must be given to dogs and cats by an injection given by a licensed veterinarian. This provides the best protection for individual animals.

## What is Raccoon Rabies?

Raccoon rabies is caused by a virus that attacks the brain. Symptoms include unusual, aggressive or calm and friendly behavior, an inability to eat or drink, balance problems, circling, seizures, coma, and death. Rabies also is found in other wildlife.



### Why should I be concerned about raccoon rabies?

Raccoons are the most commonly reported rabid animal in Virginia. Raccoon rabies was first seen in Northwest Virginia in 1978 and has spread throughout most of the state since then.

### How do humans get rabies?

The rabies virus is mainly in the saliva and brain of rabid animals. It can be transmitted through a bite or by getting saliva or brain tissue in a wound, eye or mouth.

### What should I do if I am bitten by or exposed to an animal that might have rabies?

Wash the wound with soap and water immediately. Call your local health department to report the exposure. If possible, capture or kill the animal, but do not damage the animal's head. Contact your doctor or go to the emergency room.